



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

) Attorney Docket No.: E-986

Ronald P. Sansone

) Group Art Unit: 3629

Serial No.: 09/818,480

) Examiner: Richard Sukyoon Woo

Filed: March 27, 2001

) Date: January 14, 2003

Title: **RECIPIENT ELECTED MESSAGING SERVICES FOR MAIL THAT IS
TRANSPORTED IN TRAYS OR TUBS**

AFFIDAVIT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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JAN 27 2003

Sir:

GROUP 3600

I, the undersigned Esther A. Lapin, depose and say:

1. I am over the age of 18 and know and understand the meaning of this oath.
2. I am employed as a legal assistant by Pitney Bowes Inc., the assignee of the above-referenced patent application, working for Ronald Reichman, an attorney of record of the above-referenced patent application.
3. On January 8, 2003, and in response to the United States Patent and Trademark Office mailing of October 9, 2002, I placed in the United States Postal Service mail the attached mailing envelope, Amendment Transmittal Letter, Amendment, Terminal Disclaimer and Return Receipt Postcard, addressed to "Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231" (hereinafter "Documents").
4. On January 13, 2003, the Documents were received by deponent in the original mailing envelope which was marked "ISA".
5. On January 14, 2003, in a telephone conversation with John Miller of the Address Management Systems of the United States Postal Service (hereinafter "USPS") at telephone number 301-754,1702, deponent was advised that: (a) 20231 is a zip code specific only to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (hereinafter

"PTO") in Washington, D.C.; (b) regardless of what the addressee's name and address might be on an envelope, the United States Postal Service would deliver the package to the PTO as long as the zip code on such mailing was 20231; (c) the letters "ISA" were not placed on the envelope by the USPS; (d) he believed that the letters "ISA" were placed on the envelope once the envelope was delivered to the PTO; and (e) there was no reason the USPS would have returned the envelope as it was addressed.

6. The Documents were due by January 9, 2003, and were properly placed in the U.S. mails as first class mail on January 8, 2003, as indicated by the postal indicia affixed to the mailing envelope.

Esther A. Lapin
ESTHER A. LAPIN

SWORN TO and subscribed before me this 14th day of January, 2003, by Esther A. Lapin.

Angelo J. Alario
NOTARY PUBLIC FOR CONNECTICUT
My Commission Expires: 7/31/06



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

on January 14, 2003
Date of Deposit

Esther A. Lapin
Signature

Esther A. Lapin
Name of Rep.

January 14, 2003
Date

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